

# REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE.

*1914.*

BARNSTAPLE :

HENRY PINCOMBE, PRINTER, MAIDEN STREET, STRAND.



Bear Street,  
Barnstaple.

January 1st, 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barnstaple Town Council, and  
Education Authority.

Gentlemen,—

I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report on the  
Health, and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year  
1914.

Included with it is the Report for the year 1914, shewing the  
work done by the School Medical Officer under the Code of Regu-  
lations for Public Elementary Schools, 1908.

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT C. JONAS.



Summary of the principal items of the Vital Statistics for the year 1914. For the sake of comparison the corresponding figures for the Borough in 1913 are added, and where possible the figures for England and Wales for the year 1914.

Area of Borough ... ..	2,359 acres.
Population (estimated) ... ..	14,636.

	1913.	1914.	England & Wales.
Birth Rate ... ..	16·90	18·85	23·9
Death Rate ... ..	14·01	14·29	13·1
Infectious Diseases, Death Rate	·61	·02	
Tuberculosis Death Rate ...	1·66	1·70	
Cancer Death Rate ... ..	1·64	1·63	
Infant Mortality ... ..	93·49	72·46	105·0



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## (A.) NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Barnstaple is situated on the banks of the River Taw, and covers an area of 2,359 acres. Several portions of the town are liable to floods, especially when high spring tides occur when there has been a heavy rainfall.

The census of 1911 shewed a population of 14,484.

The estimated population for this year is 14,636.

There were 3,539 inhabited houses 1911.

The industries of Barnstaple are cabinet making, gloving, lace net manufacture, pottery, and industries incidental to a market town for a large agricultural district.

There has been little unemployment. A fair proportion of men have joined the colours and the war has found extra work for some of the factories.

Mr. Wainwright has very kindly furnished a meteorological report for the year, which will be found at the end of the report as Table VI.

Early in the autumn a reserve Battalion of Yeomanry and another of Territorial troops were billeted in the town. Such billeting took place before the issue of the order, making it necessary for the M.O.H. to be consulted, after the order came out the Medical Officer in charge of troops furnished your Medical Officer with a list of houses in which troops were billeted, and some of these were changed after representations had been made by the M.O.H., *e.g.* in one case it was found troops had been billeted in a house where there was an open case of phthisis.

The Medical Officers in charge of troops were kept informed of the occurrence of infectious disease in the Borough. There has been complete and cordial co-operation between the military and sanitary authorities.

## (B.) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Barnstaple Water Company provides the town with an excellent and abundant water supply derived from the river Yeo at Bratton Cross. The intake is about 6 miles from the town, and is carried for some distance in a properly constructed open concreted leet along a side hill which is very free of habitation, and is thence piped to a reservoir at Raleigh. There is no pollution.

No instances of lead poisoning have occurred.

The supply is constant and the filtration beds are ample.

The daily consumption is 677,000 gallons.

## RIVERS &amp; STREAMS.

The mill leet from the river Yeo is polluted in the Borough by the use of its water for the washing of skins, but the site of such pollution is well below the area where any drinking supply is taken from.

The Taw receives the crude sewage of Barnstaple in addition to that of many villages along its banks.

## DRAINAGE &amp; SEWERAGE.

The sewerage is collected into main sewers, which discharge into the river Taw at Castle quay and Pottington respectively. A third sewer discharging on the other side of the river at Bridge wharf drains the Sticklepath and Bridge wharf area.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Throughout the Borough water closets are almost universal. There are however some earth closets in use in the outlying parts of the district. They are not kept in as cleanly a condition as they should be and they are not emptied as often as is desirable. There is a popular superstition that cinders and fire ashes are of great value as deodorizers. If only the people who have earth closets could be got to understand that dry garden mould is the very best deodorizer and disinfectant, these closets would be infinitely more sanitary than they are at present.



## SCAVENGING.

House refuse is collected in covered carts, and has been used this year to fill up an old pit close to the Braunton road. Ultimately this will be an improvement in this district, but it has given rise to a considerable amount of effluvium at times, and would probably have been complained of had not many of the residents in the neighbourhood been desirous of having the pit filled up beforehand. There have been a large number of sore throats in Fair view and Rolle street, probably due to this cause—none of them have been at all serious and no case of diphtheria has arisen there.

The proper disposal of refuse becomes yearly more difficult, and it is to be hoped that after the war is over the Council will seriously consider the question of providing a destructor.

Covered galvanised ash bins are not sufficiently plentiful in the district, and there are still in use many filthy and insanitary boxes.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws :—

## COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are two such in the Borough. They have been periodically visited and are well kept.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Fellmongers, 2.

Fried Fish Shops, 4.

Manufacture of Tar and Sulphate of Ammonia, 1.

During the summer complaints have been made as to a nuisance arising from the premises of one fellmonger. Constant inspections by your sanitary staff showed that the nuisance arose mainly from the accumulation of bones and hides. Representations have been made, and for some time past there has been no further trouble. But when the warmer weather comes it will be imperatively necessary that the accumulations must not be allowed by the owners, and it is hoped that on the very first suspicion of any nuisance arising information will be at once given to the sanitary staff of your Council,

## SCHOOLS.

The general sanitation of the schools is good. Complaints have been made with regard to uncleanness in one of the Infant Schools, otherwise they are all well kept.

There has been a good deal of scarlet fever infection by personal contact in several schools, but it is to be hoped that this year will show a considerable diminution in the number of cases of this disease.

The report of the School Medical Officer is given below.

Bear Street, Barnstaple,  
January, 1915.

**To the Barnstaple Education Committee.**

Miss Wright & Gentlemen,—

The plan of previous years has been followed in dividing the subject into the following heads:—

- A. The General and Sanitary arrangements of the schools.
- B. The arrangements adopted for carrying out the inspection.
- C. The Scope and Extent of Medical Inspection during the year.
- D. The Physical Condition as revealed by Medical Inspection.
- E. The action taken in regard to treatment.

(A). THE GENERAL AND SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS  
OF THE SCHOOLS.

There are 11 Elementary Schools in the Borough with 14 departments.

The total number of children on the books at the end of the year was 1,910 of over 5 years of age, and 182 under 5 years of age, or 2,093 in all.

The children are distributed as follows :—

Blue Coat	...	...	189	
Church Girls	...	...	128	
Church Infants	...	...	125	under five ... 46
Trinity Boys	...	...	102	
Trinity Girls	...	...	129	
Ashleigh Road	...	...	345·7	
Cyprus Terrace	...	...	93	under five ... 35
Pilton Mixed	...	...	116	
Pilton Infants	...	...	103	under five ... 20
Roman Catholic	...	...	82	under five ... 13
St. Mary Magdalene	...	...	147	
St. Mary Magdalene Infants	...	...	69·2	under five ... 38·2
Wesleyan Mixed	...	...	175	
Wesleyan Infants	...	...	107	under five ... 30
			<hr/> 1910·9	<hr/> 182·2

Total all ages 2,093·1.

#### HEATING ARRANGEMENTS.

These are quite satisfactory on the whole. The temperature in one of the schoolrooms was low during the winter, but this was reported to your Committee and there has been marked improvement.

#### VENTILATION.

This is satisfactory.

#### LIGHTING.

Quite satisfactory.

#### CLOAK ROOMS.

These are still inadequate in some of the schools.

#### CLEANLINESS OF CLASS-ROOMS.

This is satisfactorily done on the whole. There have been some complaints which have been reported and dealt with by your Committee.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Excellent. There is still insufficient washing accommodation in some of the schools.

### SANITARY OFFICES.

These still show improvement.

### EQUIPMENT.

This is now very good.

## (B). ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT SCHOOL INSPECTION.

The examination of this year has been occupied with the following groups :—

1. Entrants to Infant School, 4 to 5 years of age.
2. Entrants to Upper School, 7 to 8 years of age.
3. Leavers, 12 to 13 years of age.
4. Children of other ages needing examination.
5. The mentally defective children of the Town.

Your School Medical Officer again wishes to put on record his appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by the Teachers of the various schools, whose help is always most willingly given, and cannot be over estimated.

There has also been close communication between the Attendance Officer and the School Medical Officer, which has been of great service to the efficient carrying out of the work, especially as regards the sending of the necessary notices to parents with regard to treatment.

The examinations have been carried out in school hours, on school premises with practically no disturbance of work.

The parents do not attend well, but there have again been very few objections to examinations, viz : 2 cases in the whole year.

(C). EXTENT & SCOPE OF THE MEDICAL INSPECTION  
DURING THE YEAR.

Visits to Schools and Departments	...	90
Number of children examined	... ..	483
Entrants and Leavers	... ..	331
Other Ages	... ..	40
Mentally deficient children	... ..	32
Re-examined	... ..	80
Parents present	... ..	142
Number referred for treatment	... ..	171

## Diseases referred for medical treatment :—

Tonsils	... ..	26
Adenoids	... ..	36
Nits	... ..	43
Defective teeth	... ..	11
Defective eyesight	... ..	32
Eye disease	... ..	4
Weak heart	... ..	4
Skin disease	... ..	7
Spinal curvature	... ..	2
Weak chest	... ..	4
General debility	... ..	4
Ear disease	... ..	6
Enuresis	... ..	1
Enlarged thyroid	... ..	2
Rupture	... ..	0
Enlarged glands	... ..	1
Ringworm	... ..	13
All other causes	... ..	4
Total	... ..	<hr/> 190 <hr/>

## (D) PHYSICAL CONDITION AS REVEALED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

### NUTRITION.

Good on the whole.

### CLEANLINESS.

This is no worse. Two more cases have been referred, but no case is now overlooked, and they are referred for the slightest cause,

### RINGWORM.

There have been 13 cases actually discovered during school inspection and there have been several other cases absent for a long while owing to this. Several of these cases are not ringworm of the scalp and do not necessitate a long absence from school.

### MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

The School Medical Officer has examined 32 children under the Mental Deficiency Act, notified to him by the teachers of the schools, and begs to report as follows :—Of these 32 children 3 are quite incapable of receiving instruction in a special class or school, being imbeciles. Of these three one shows marked signs of cretinism, and might improve under treatment sufficiently to be taught, but this is doubtful. This child has very bad surroundings at home and shows signs of neglect, and it would be a very good thing if the child could be removed to an institution such as the Workhouse, where it could receive proper treatment and care.

The other two are ordinary imbeciles. One might benefit from residence in an institution such as Earlswood, but the other is quite hopeless, but also harmless, at present.

Sixteen must be classed as mentally defective, who would benefit from teaching in a special school or class. These can be divided into two classes :—

- (1) Those who need a special residential school, 9 in number.
- (2) Those who only need a special day school, 7 in number.



### Of Class 1

One is deaf and dumb and a very intelligent child, and would amply repay any expense spent upon her ; in fact she can almost talk as it is.

One is an epileptic, and should certainly be tried in a special school, though it is doubtful whether she will benefit, but she is a danger to other children in an ordinary school. At present she is at home.

Three come from the Cottage Homes, and so really belong to the Board of Guardians.

### Of Class 2

None call for special comment.

Eleven children are in various stages of backwardness and dulness, and need education in a special class or school. Some of these are probably cases of late development, and will be able to be drafted back later into the ordinary school. Others will eventually be found to be incapable of complete development, and will then have to be placed in the previous class, but are not bad enough to be branded at present as mentally defective.

This leaves only two children who are not mentally defective but only slightly backward, and are quite capable of being educated in the ordinary elementary school, one with slight modification of curriculum, the other with the ordinary routine.

A detailed report on each child has been sent as required.

### DEFECTIVE TEETH.

There is no scheme at present for dealing with the defective teeth, so that only those cases were referred in which there was a strong likelihood of the parents being able to get the children's teeth attended to. An exhaustive report on the children's teeth appeared in last year's report.

### TONSILS & ADENOIDS.

There are the usual number of these cases. Most of them get dealt with by recommends at the North Devon Infirmary and Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary.

## GLANDULAR ENLARGEMENTS.

Only one child was referred for this cause.

## EYE DISEASES &amp; DEFECTIVE VISION.

The children mostly get treated by recommend at the local institutions.

## EAR DISEASE.

There were only 6 cases discovered.

## ENLARGED THYROID.

Two cases only were referred.

## SPINAL CURVATURE.

These show about the average number of children.

## WEAK CHESTS.

Four cases were referred, none of them definitely tubercular.  
HEART AND GENERAL DEBILITY.

Four children were referred for valvular disease of heart, four for general debility.

## (E) ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEDICAL TREATMENT.

This has not changed. The Attendance Officer and your School Medical Officer work in very close conjunction, and any child that is kept away from school unnecessarily is very soon discovered, and in cases of doubt your School Medical Officer will always examine the child for the mother if she brings it to the school, and definitely decide as to the fitness of the child.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

STANLEY R. GIBBS.



## FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The supply of milk in the Borough is very good and plentiful. Last year comment was made on the number of samples adversely reported on by the Public Analyst. It is satisfactory to be able to state this year that there has been no case of adulteration reported.

## OTHER FOODS.

During the year the carcasses of 3 bullocks were surrendered and condemned as suffering from tuberculosis. Three lots of fish have been condemned as unfit for human food.

## SHELLFISH.

The inhabitants of the Borough still continue to eat shellfish from the Taw and Torridge in spite of warning. Taken from these rivers, which contain crude sewage, these mussels and cockles are not fit for human consumption.

Food shops are clean and well kept.

The 5 private and 2 public slaughter-houses have always been found clean and well kept.

There are no underground bakehouses. The 20 bakehouses in the Borough are well kept.

## BUTTER.

During the year a suggestion was made that there was adulteration of butter. Your attention is called to the fact that 25 samples have been analysed at different times, and all were found pure.

## SALE OF FOOD &amp; DRUGS ACT.

Mr. Eddy, Chief Constable, who is the Inspector under this Act, reports as follows:—

## Food and Drugs Act.

No. of samples purchased and analysed by Public Analyst, and result.

	Samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Butter ...	25	25	Nil.
Cheese ...	7	7	Nil.
Lard ...	3	3	Nil.
New Milk ...	3	3	1 sample contained pre- servatives, viz. 1 grain boric acid per pint.
Skimmed Milk...	2	2	Nil.
Total ...	40	40	

R. S. EDDY,  
Chief Constable.

## FLIES &amp; FOOD.

Owing to special conditions created by the War, it is probable that several infectious diseases may become epidemic in this country.

Flies undoubtedly carry infection to food, and it is therefore most important that efforts should be directed against these insects. And your Medical Officer of Health would like to take this opportunity of warning the public against this danger.

Flies should be destroyed early in the summer before they begin to be a pest.

No accumulation of dirt or rubbish should be allowed.

No animal refuse should be placed in dust bins: it is far better burnt first.

No manure heaps should be allowed near dwelling houses for long periods. Any excessive accumulation should be reported to the Sanitary Authority.

Keep all food screened from flies.

Windows and window sills should be wiped over 3 times weekly with a few drops of paraffin on a duster.

If these precautions are taken early, it will not be necessary to hang fly traps everywhere in the hot summer months.

#### HOUSING.

Tabular statement of work done under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

No. of Dwelling Houses inspected under and for the purposes of Sec. 17	...	...	...	178
No. considered to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health	...	...	...	148
No. in which the defects were remedied without the making of Closing Order	...	...	...	85
No. of representations made to the Local Authority with the view to the making of Closing Order	...	...	...	54
No. of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	48
No. of Dwelling Houses which, after the making of Closing Order, were put in a fit state for human habitation	...	...	...	2
No. now being put in a fit state	...	...	...	30
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	8

General character of defects found to exist :—Insufficient ventilation, etc., to living and sleeping rooms, unpaved yards, defective drainage, etc.

A very large amount of work has been done under this heading, as the tabular statement given above shows.

There is no shortage of houses for the artisan and skilled labourer classes, but the accommodation for unskilled workmen is too often not in a satisfactory sanitary state. After inspection by the public health officers, and on the serving of notices, it is very frequently the case that the owner is unable to find the money necessary for the repairs owing to the fact that they have allowed the property to go from bad to worse for years. However, there is no doubt there has been a considerable improvement in the sanitation of the poorer houses since the passing of the Act in 1910.

The supervision over new construction is ample.

#### (C.) SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT STAFF.

Since the outbreak of war your Sanitary Inspector has had again to take over the work which recently was put under the charge of the Clerk of the Works, who is away on service. It is hoped that when the War is over the old arrangement will be restored.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The isolation accommodation is sufficient in quantity for the needs of the Borough. There are 3 separate wards, containing beds for 18 patients. As it is a converted building, it is far from ideal as to arrangements. The Council has still had no further information from the County Authorities as to the scheme for making a joint Isolation Hospital for the combined districts.

During the year the Hospital has been opened on 2 occasions to admit cases of diphtheria, one being an urgent tracheotomy case.

It was also opened on October 7th to admit a case of enteric. Two other cases were afterwards admitted, and the Hospital was not closed at the end of the year. During this time a case of diphtheria in a soldier was also admitted.

In all the Hospital has been open 142 days in the year.

## SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

During the year a Joint Committee was appointed by the Barnstaple Town Council and the Barnstaple Rural District Council to consider the provision of a site for the erection, if necessary, of tents or other temporary accommodation for cases of this disease should they arise. This Joint Committee has done a considerable amount of work, and at last has succeeded in finding a suitably isolated field which they can hire. The site is satisfactory if the water supply is sufficient. The analysis shows that the quality of the water is excellent. Under any circumstances a great advance has been made by getting the two Authorities to consider the matter in conjunction, and there can be no doubt that the Borough will shortly be provided with some place where small pox can be isolated when it occurs.

Local and adoptive Acts in force within the Borough :—

### LOCAL ACTS.

Barnstaple Market Act, 1852. Provisional order 1907, partially repealing and altering above.

### ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Amendments Act, 1890, parts 2, 3, 4 and 5. The whole of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, except Sections 48, 51, 68, 78, 82, 84, 85, 91, 92, 93, and 94.

## CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The County Medical Officer continues to do all the necessary examinations for practitioners in the Borough for suspected cases of tubercle, enteric fever, and diphtheria.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following is the report of Mr. John Hill, showing the work done during the year:—

21, Castle Street, Barnstaple,  
January, 1915.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,—I beg to submit for your consideration a summary of work done during the year 1914.

Number of Houses inspected .....	260
„ Inspections and Re-visits .....	1123
„ Complaints received .....	126
„ Preliminary Notices given.....	139
„ Statutory Notices served .....	56
„ Official Reports made ... ..	14
„ Cases reported under the Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890 and 1909 .....	54
„ Houses put in habitable repair.....	87
„ Houses condemned as unfit for human habitation...	15
„ Houses redrained throughout with new connection to sewer .....	91
„ House drains repaired .....	40
„ New Water Closets built .....	39
„ Water Closets repaired.....	83
„ Privies converted into Water Closets .....	7
Visits to Slaughter Houses .....	224
„ Common Lodging Houses.....	16
„ Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops .....	46
Number of Workshops and Bakehouses on Register.....	127
„ Houses disinfected .....	124
„ „ cleaned and limewashed .....	32
Quantities of Disinfectants served out.....	1877
Cases of Overcrowding abated .....	2
Number of Bullocks condemned for tuberculosis .....	3
Number of seizures of unsound Meat and Fish .....	3
Samples of Water condemned .....	1

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HILL, A.R.S.I.



# (D) PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

182 cases of notifiable diseases have occurred within the Borough. This compares favourably with 256 notified last year.

Disease,	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Small-pox ... ..							
Cholera ... ..							
Diphtheria ... ..	2	22	13	9	29	29	19
Erysipelas ... ..	11	9	8	4	8	6	7
Scarlet Fever ... ..	54	7	3	6	83	156	104
Typhus Fever ... ..							
Enteric Fever ... ..	4	6	6	49	4	6	6
Relapsing Fever... ..							
Continued Fever .. ..							
Puerperal Fever ... ..		1					
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..				1		1	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .. ..							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis... ..					38	37	35
Other forms of .. ..						21	11

## SCARLET FEVER.

The epidemic of 1912-13 has been continued through 1914. 2 deaths have occurred this year out of the 104 cases; thus the death rate this year is nearly 2 per cent. The total rate for 343 cases in the 3 years is 1.1.

Last year 2 charts were shewn in the annual report giving graphic curves for the age incidence, and a second shewing the numbers notified during each month. These charts are not repeated this year, but it may be of interest to state that the age incidence chart shows an almost parallel curve to the 2 previous years, reaching its maximum between 5 and 10, thus showing the prominent part school infection plays in the spread of the disease. During the year the epidemic gradually subsided, and there has not been a very

extensive recrudescence during the autumn. A slight spurt in December is largely accounted for by a batch of cases which occurred in the Infirmary, all traced to one of these mild cases who had been admitted whilst suffering from some other complaint, and the scarlet fever peeling was not recognised until the child was admitted and the mischief was done.

#### CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS & POLIOMYELITIS.

No case of either disease has been notified during the year.

#### CHOLERA, PLAGUE & TYPHUS FEVER.

No cases have occurred of any one of these three diseases.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

There have been 19 cases of this disease with 1 death. One case was admitted to the Isolation Hospital for immediate tracheotomy and recovered. This is the first time an operation case has been admitted there, and it is gratifying to be able to report that the hospital was got open and everything ready for operation within 1 hour. Three cases have been intubated. Beyond these 4 cases the remainder were of a mild type.

Most of the cases appear to have arisen from personal contact. The influence of school infection was not marked. No circumstances were present pointing to the possibility of milk infection.

Antitoxin has been supplied by the Sanitary Authority when required.

Age incidence :—

1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45
4	10	4	1

#### ENTERIC FEVER.

6 Cases have been notified during the year. There was no death. 1 small child aged 4 was nursed at home. 3 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.



3 Cases owed their origin to infection from a previous case, and in one of the remaining cases there was a fair probability that mussels from the River Taw were responsible for the disease. The two cases in the Infirmary were nurses who contracted the disease from a case which admitted as urgent died shortly after and was not recognized during life.

#### SMALL POX.

No case has been notified. As stated elsewhere the Council are taking steps to provide means of isolation for this disease. There is a great possibility of small pox making its appearance after the War, and the population of the Borough are faced with the fact that for years past they have been neglecting to avail themselves of the protection afforded by vaccination.

It is to be hoped that under the present conditions as many as possible will get their unprotected children vaccinated promptly, and that the adult population will get re-vaccinated.

If vaccination remains so neglected as at present, the Public Health authorities in this Borough will be faced with a very grave task indeed if the disease should become epidemic.

#### NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

##### MEASLES & PERTUSSIS.

A fairly large number of cases of pertussis occurred at the beginning of the year, but not a very extensive epidemic. There were no deaths from this disease or measles, which was not very prevalent.

##### DIARRHŒA & ENTERITIS.

Two deaths occurred from this cause.

## DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following table gives the deaths occurring from the seven principal Zymotic diseases during the last seven years :—

Zymotic Diseases.	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Diarrhoea ...	2	1	1	7	1	7	2
Diphtheria ...	.....	1	.....	.....	3	1	1
Measles ...	2	.....	1	8	1	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever...	2	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Typhoid Fever	2	.....	.....	9	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	8	.....	1	.....	.....
Total for each year ...	8	2	10	24	7	9	5

## (E). PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTRON OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 35 cases of pulmonary and 11 cases of non pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified.

Sex distribution is as follows : males 31, females 15.

The age incidence is given below.

	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-60	over 60
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	10	12	10	3
Non Pulmonary „	1	4	2	2	2	...

The arrangement come to last year with the Tuberculosis Officer has been adhered to, whereby he informs the M.O.H. of all cases where action by the Sanitary Authority is, in his opinion, necessary. The Medical Officer after inspection notifies the Sanitary Inspector, or if necessary brings the matter to the notice of the Sanitary Authority.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary in Barnstaple is under the authority of the County Council.

Houses are thoroughly disinfected after occupation by phthisical patients.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that Sanatorium treatment is now much more easily available for cases of phthisis than was the case last year.

The death rate this year from Tuberculosis is 1.70 and last year 1.66.

#### (F). INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

##### CANCER.

The death rate from this disease is 1.63 as against 1.64 last year.

During the year there have been 24 deaths, thus maintaining the high number for 1913.

Year	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Deaths	16	19	20	17	24	24

##### PNEUMONIA.

Pneumonia has accounted for 12 deaths and bronchitis 16. Of the pneumonias 9 occurred in the first quarter, thus leaving only 3 for the remainder of the year.

##### RHEUMATIC FEVER.

Again no deaths.

##### INFLUENZA.

Two deaths occurred from this disease.

## (G). INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year, out of 276 births 20 have died under 1 year of age. This gives an infant mortality rate of 72·46. This compares very favourably with last year's, when it was 95·49. The rate for England and Wales is 105·0, which also shows a drop from 112·0 last year. It will be noticed that the rate for this borough has shewn more improvement than that for the country in general.

The births of illegitimate children this year number 26, including 8 not belonging to the Urban District and 6 of them died before they were 12 months old.

Legitimate children.				Illegitimate children.			
Births ... ..	250			Births ... ..	26		
Deaths ... ..	14			Deaths ... ..	6		
Death rate per 1,000 ...	56·0			Death rate per 1,000 ...	230·0		

That is to say, the borough shows this year an infant mortality four times greater among the illegitimate children than among the remainder.

And it is much to be deplored that the improvement last year has disappeared entirely.

## (H). VITAL STATISTICS.

## BIRTHS.

There were 276 children born during 1914, the birth rate being 18·85.

The birth rate for England and Wales is 23·9.

The following gives the rates for the last six years:—

Year.	Number of Births.	Barnstaple Birth Rate per 1000 living.	England & Wales Birth Rate per 1000 living.
1909	312	21·57	26·5
1910	278	19·16	24·8
1911	300	20·79	24·4
1912	296	20·40	22·6
1913	246	16·90	23·9
1914	276	18·85	23·9

Birth rate for Barnstaple for the quinquennium :—

1901 to 1905	...	22·19
1906 to 1910	...	20·97

#### DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered was 221. Of these 15 were non-residents occurring in the Borough, and 3 died elsewhere and are transferred to this district. 209 is thus the number of nett deaths for Barnstaple. The death rate is 14·27.

The following table shows the corresponding figures for the last 6 years :—

Year.	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district.	Barnstaple Death Rate per 1000.	Death Rate of England & Wales per 1000.
1909	187	12·01	14·5
1910	216	14·89	13·4
1911	234	16·15	14·6
1912	227	15·64	12·1
1913	204	14·0	13·4
1914	209	14·27	13·1

Longevity Table. Deaths over 65.

Age period.	No of deaths.
65—70	20
70—75	22
75—80	27
80—85	17
85—90	7
90—95	2
95—100	2
	—
	97
	—

#### DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

	Residents.	Non-Residents.
North Devon Infirmary.....	7	14
Barnstaple Workhouse .....	11	11

HERBERT C. JONAS, M.D., B.S., Lond.,  
M.O.H.



# TABLE I.

Table showing Vital Statistics of the whole District during 1914 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 year.		At all Ages.	
			No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	No.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	No.	Rate
1909	14462	312	312	21·57	224	15·35	37	...	22	70·51	187	12·92
1910	14506	278	278	19·16	234	16·13	18	...	33	118·70	216	14·89
1911	14484	300	300	20·70	253	17·46	28	9	32	106·66	234	16·15
1912	14508	296	296	20·40	259	17·85	36	4	23	77·70	227	15·64
1913	14552	246	246	16·90	205	14·21	17	16	23	93·49	204	14·0
1914	14636	276	276	18·85	221	15·09	15	3	20	72·46	209	14·27

Total population at all ages at last Census ..... 14484  
 Number of Inhabited Houses .. ..... 3539  
 Average number of persons per house .. ..... 4·09  
 Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered  
 by water) 2359





# TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1914.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in whole district.							
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and above
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	19	...	4	10	4	1	...	...
Erysipelas ...	7	...	...	1	1	4	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	104	...	28	71	5	...	...	..
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	6	...	..	3	1	2	...	..
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	35	...	...	...	10	12	10	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	11	..	1	4	2	2	2	...
Totals ...	182	...	33	89	23	21	13	3

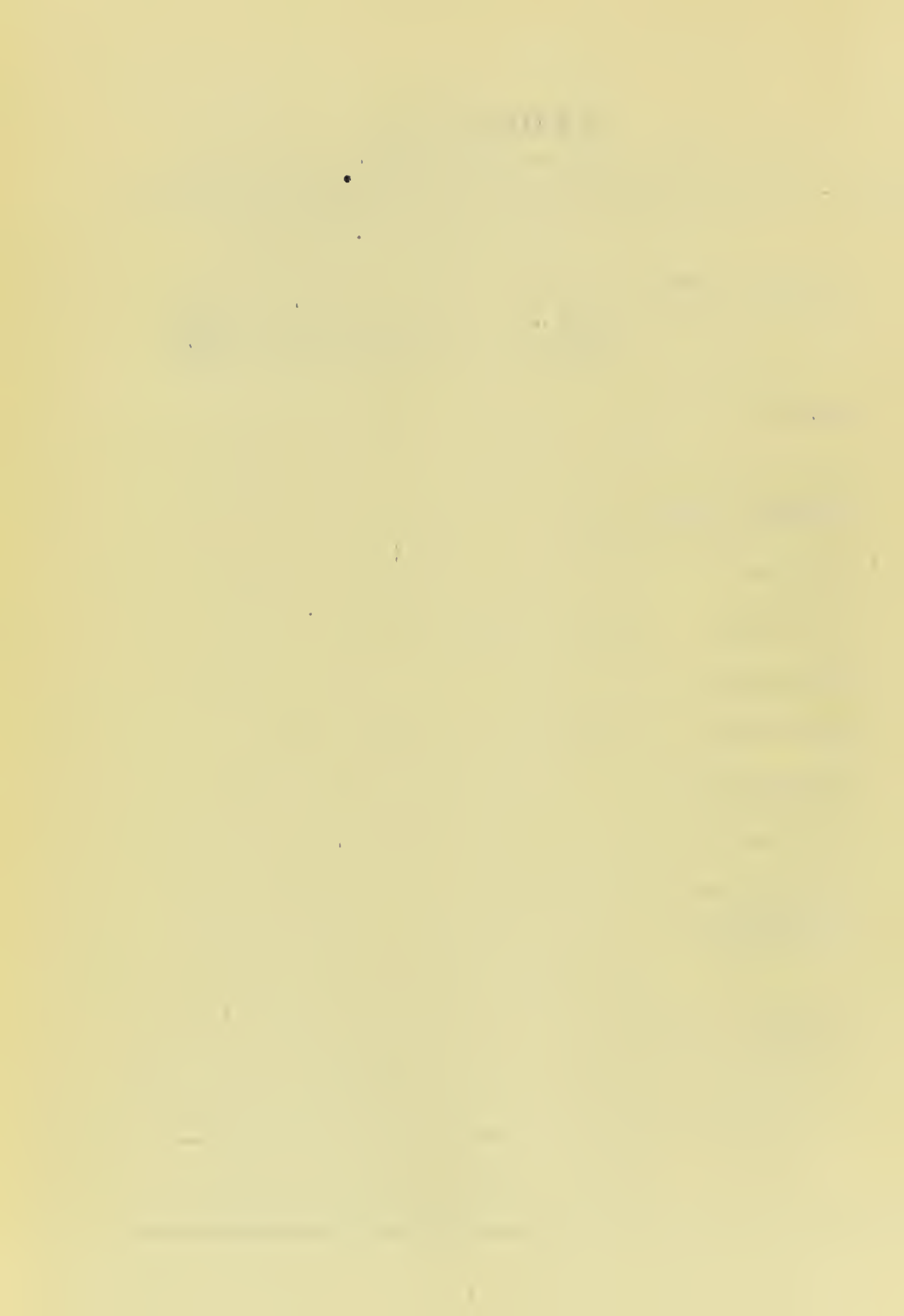


TABLE III.

Table showing the Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1914.

Causes of Death.	Death in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents, in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	1	..	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	1
Influenza ...	2	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	21	...	...	...	1	1	7	11	1	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	24	...	...	...	...	...	3	9	12	4
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	10	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	1
Bronchitis ...	16	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	11	1
Pneumonia ...	12	4	...	1	...	...	3	2	2	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa... ..	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1
Alcoholism ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
Congenital Debility, including Premature Birth ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths excluding Suicide ...	9	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	3	4
Suicides ...	2	..	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	104	11	2	1	4	...	12	14	60	26
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
All Causes ...	221	20	3	3	13	5	30	50	97	44



# TABLE IV.

Table showing Infantile Mortality during the year 1913. Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All Causes {		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
	Certified Causes {	Uncertified	6	...	...	1	7	4	3	2	4	20
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria : Croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
{ Diarrhoea ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malformations ...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Marasmus	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	10
Other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	6	...	...	1	7	4	3	2	4	20

Births in the year, legitimate ... 250  
 " " illegitimate ... 26  
 Deaths in the year of legitimate infants ... 14  
 " " illegitimate infants ... 6



# TABLE V.

Report of Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Work-places, and Home-work.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of		
		Written Notices.	Prosecutions.	
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	Nil	Nil	Nil.	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	93	Nil	Nil.	
Workplaces (Other than Outworker's premises included in part 3 of this Report)	14	Nil.	Nil.	
Total	107	0		0

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	...	...
Want of Ventilation	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	2	2	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation	3	3	...	...
	2	2	...	...
	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	1	...	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).	...	...	...	...
Total	12	11	...	...



### 3.—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.										Prosecutions.	Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.	Outwork in Infected Premises, Sections 109, 110.	Instances.		
	Lists received from Employers.				Once in the year.				Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.						Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	
	Twice in the year.		Outworkers.		Once in the year.		Outworkers.		Failing to send lists.						Instances.	
	Lists.	Con-tractors.	Work-men.	Lists.	Con-tractors.	Work-men.										
	Lists.	Con-tractors.	Work-men.	Lists.	Con-tractors.	Work-men.										
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c. ...	4	0	14	2	4	9	16									
Furniture and Upholstery.....																

### 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	No.	Class.	No.
Dressmakers and Milliners ...	32	Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Tailors ...	20	Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Work- shop Act (s. 133)... ..	...
Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, &c. ...	22		
Plumbing and Smithy ...	14	Action taken in matters referred (Notified by H.M. Inspector as remediable) Inspector ...	1
Bakehouses ...	19	by H.M. Inspector as remediable) Reports (of action under the Public Health Acts, but taken) sent to not under the Factory and Work- (H.M. Inspector... shop Act (s. 5).	...
Various other Trades...	20	Other ...	2
		Underground Bake- } No underground Bakehouses houses' (s. 101)	
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	127		3



## TABLE VI.

Table showing the Rainfall for each month of the year, together with the true mean Temperature for each month of the year, as recorded at the Athenæum, Barnstaple, by THOMAS WAINWRIGHT, Esq.

In Latitude, 51° 5' N.  
In Longitude, 4° 4' W.  
Height above the sea, 25 feet.  
Height above the ground, 8 inches.

	Rainfall in inches.	Number of days on which .01 inches or more rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Minimum Temperature.	Mean Temperature.
January .....	1.63	15	44.64°	35.51°	40.11°
February .....	3.13	19	51.12°	39.24°	45.21°
March .....	5.82	28	50.16°	39.19°	44.67°
April .....	2.33	9	59°	41.63°	50.31°
May .....	1.60	14	59.74°	44.16°	51.95°
June .....	2.20	10	65.60°	50.56°	58.08°
July .....	4.60	22	66.22°	52.43°	59.86°
August .....	4.06	17	67.77°	53.09°	60.43°
September ...	2.79	12	64.93°	48.60°	56.76°
October .....	2.78	17	58.03°	42.61°	50.33°
November .....	4.32	20	52.13°	38.46°	45.30°
December .....	6.05	25	48.35°	36.80°	42.58°

Total	41.31	208	
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RAINFALL.—The Rainfall of 1914 was 7 per cent. over the average, excesses over their averages occurring in March, when the fall was more than double the usual amount; in July, when nearly the same excess occurred, and in December, with an addition to the usual fall of 43 per cent., a small addition compared with that recorded in some other counties. The number of days on which .01 inch of rain fell was 208, the average for the preceding 54 years being 193. TEMPERATURE.—The Temperature of the year was 6 per cent. below the average, that of the months of February, March, and April being much above the normal, while the other months, and especially May, July, October, and November were under the usual record. SUNSHINE.—The hours of bright Sunshine at Woolacombe, 1,636.4 were 2.12 fewer than the average of the preceding 8 years.

